



# The ECS Story 1919-2019

*a potted history from the archives,  
by Beryl Cushion*



# SOURCES

Filed archives - programmes, photographs, press cuttings etc.

School magazines and prospectuses  
School and ECSOSA Newsletters

Headmistress's Log of Girls' Central School  
- 6 January 1919-2 June 1927 (Miss Bessie Seward)  
Headmaster's Log of Comprehensive School  
- 17 Oct 1984-27 July 1993 (Mr John Hulley)

(Headmasters' Log of Boys' Central School  
- 6 January 1919-31 August 1929 (Mr Frank Belton)  
(Headmaster's Log - 7 September 1943-29 January 1954 (Mr Champion) *cont'd to Oct 1954 by other staff.*  
(Headmaster's Log - 1 November 1954-21 July 1967 (Mr Hudson); Closure as a Grammar School  
(Log of Comprehensive School by various staff - 7 September 1967-24 July 1981 (Messrs Hudson & Hulley)  
(Headmaster's Log - 2 September 1981-16 October 1984 (Mr John Hulley)

Head of Junior School's log - 7 September 1967- 24 July 1981

Miss MI Emery's Drama Scrapbook

Reminiscences and photographs by various former pupils





## **Prologue**

The Education Authorities had decreed that there should be a Central Secondary School in Edmonton, comprised of selected pupils from local elementary schools.

## **Beginnings**

**1919** On 6 January, the Boys' Central School opened at Croyland Road with 81 boys, and the 80 girls were in two classrooms in Brettenham Road School. Each school was run as a separate entity, except that the Staff taught their specialist subjects in both. The Headmaster was Frank Belton BSc., assisted by Charles Richman and Simon Galin, while the Girls' Headmistress was Bessie Seward, with support from Rosie Mawer and Ellen Gatehouse.



Mr Belton - Headmaster

**1920** In April, each school admitted 80 more pupils. The overcrowding at the Girls' Central School necessitated a move to the former Junior Mixed building at Raynham Road, which they shared with Senior Girls of that school for over a year.

**1921** In October, the boys spread out to the Croyland Road Junior Mixed premises, though keeping the old Science Room, which was used by both Central Schools.

**1922** On 11 January, the Headmaster received notice of recognition of the school's "Secondary" status - dating from 1 September 1921. The First Annual Sports Day was held on Saturday 17 June, at Warren Lodge, Bury Street, and the First Annual Swimming Gala on Thursday evening, 28 September, at Knight's Lane Baths. Six girls were awarded "Victory Maintenance Scholarships", and their school adopted the 'House' system.



House Captains

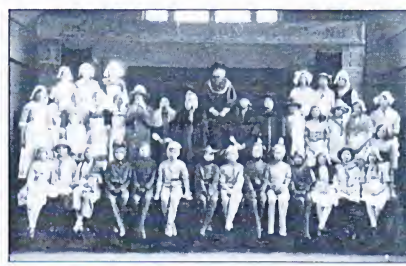
**1923** Both schools held their first Speech Days, with a total of 23 pupils awarded General School Certificates, 6 of which included Matriculation. The girls also earned several Bronze Medallions for life-saving, while the boys had their first taste of Secondary Schools Football, at which they



did remarkably well. In December, the boys presented some scenes from Shakespeare, including the trial scene from 'The Merchant of Venice' and Mark Antony's speech.



**1924** This was the girls' year to go Thespian - in March their concert included scenes from 'Cranford', 'The Pied Piper', and 'Pandora's Box'.



Netball became a serious inter-house event, and the boys' football 1st XI played the season's 20 games without loss. A joint Speech Day was held in Central Hall, Edmonton.

**1926** Patrick Dunne earned the first Intermediate BSc.

**1927** During the summer holiday, Captain Hedley took 17 boys to a farm camp in Boulogne. The autumn was a time of great upheaval as the two schools united in temporary premises at the Technical Institute in Church Street, though a classroom was retained at Croyland Road which involved much coming and going..



## ***Interlude at the Institute***

**1927** Edmonton County Secondary School came together at last, but it was not an easy transition; in the words of the Headmaster:

*"While the Croyland Road building was quite ready, newly decorated and clean, at our new home in Church Street the first few weeks of term were a bad dream - dirty corridors and rooms piled with stacks of books and furniture in hopeless confusion; two rooms filled to the door with workshop benches and machinery; two other rooms occupied by scaffolding, paint-pots and rubbish; teachers and two hundred pupils trying to sort themselves out and find a home in the odd corners. In the new workshop the flooring had yet to be laid."*

**1928** The school Houses were amalgamated with new names: Blue/Wolfe became St Andrew; Green/Shafesbury - St Patrick; Red/Gordon - St George, and Yellow/Bruce - St David. In June, the School cricket team had a remarkable match, scoring 106 for 5 declared; in reply, St Ignatius College scored 12 runs, all out!

At about this time, there are pictures of a lavish dramatic production.

**1929** In May, the school's mock election reached the national press. Gladys Ayriss was the Conservative candidate, and her three seated rivals represented Labour,



House Captains



Liberals and Independent. In July, Mr Belton retired, and the new Head, Mr James North, arrived in September. He had been Senior Master at Latymer School for many years, and was a keen sportsman, enthusiastically promoting cricket and football, both of which he played himself; and he was a qualified referee. He was easily approachable and rapidly became loved by both staff and pupils.



An affectionate story is told of his assemblies when, if interrupted, he would point to the miscreant and say "You, boy"; unfortunately, his index finger was bent, and would point to an innocent instead, to the amusement of those present. His first term went very well: the football team were successful, the Speech Day was



too, particularly the choir and drama presentations; 19 GSC's and 3 Matrics were awarded, and the life-saving classes received a boost when Edna Gentle was congratulated for saving a boy from drowning during the summer. Furthermore, a part of the School Field known as 'The Rockery' was earmarked for the building of the new school. In December an afternoon of plays produced by the students themselves set a pattern which developed in later years into 'English Afternoon'.

**1930** In the Spring a party of girls visited Belgium, chaperoned by Miss Fothergill, Miss Capewell and Miss Gatehouse, but the major event was the laying of the Foundation Brick of the new building on 29 October. The building cost £50,175 and was expected to take a year to construct, but



was in fact ready for occupation in September 1931, with a little work still to be completed. Speech Day in November was in the Central Hall, Edmonton when prizes were distributed by His Honour Judge Dawson Crawford.



## ***A New Home - the Thirties***

During Mr North's regime, annual events such as Sports Day, Swimming Gala and Speech Day continued as before, but there were several new traditions established: an Overseas Afternoon in March, when 4 representatives from different parts of the world would speak about their countries; a School v. Parents cricket match; a Shakespeare play in the autumn; and a French Afternoon just before Christmas.

**1931** Senior boys enjoyed a week's camp in a French barn near Dieppe.



On 28 September, Alderman and Mrs Marlow Reed led the official opening of the new buildings, and at the beginning of December, staff and pupils performed "The Tempest". Scenes from "Athalie" concluded the year.

**1932** In March, several successes were recorded at the Enfield Musical and Verse-speaking Festival. The October production was "The Taming of

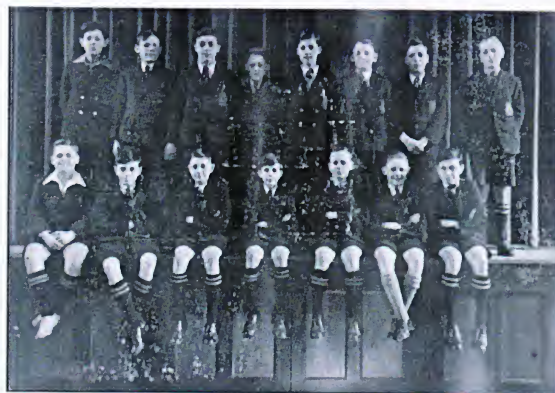


the Shrew”.

On Chesil Bank



Form 2 Boys' Verse-Speaking Choir



**1933** A concert was given in March by the First Prize winners at the Enfield Festival, a party of boys visited Dorset and the autumn play was "The Merchant of Venice".

**1934** School visit to Belgium. On 11-13 October, "Twelfth Night" was presented.

With Miss Capewell in Ghent, 1934



In Paris 1935



**1935** There was a school visit to Paris for a week; Overseas Afternoon visitors came from Egypt, Africa, Finland and India; "As You Like It" was performed in October; and in November the school took part in the Edmonton Education Committee's Educational Exhibition.

**1936** A former British chess champion took on 13 boys simultaneously from the school chess club. On 4 March, the school took part in "A



Pageant of Medicine" for Edmonton Health Week, with pupils in all of the





sketches. This year's autumn drama was a staff play: "Ambrose Applejohn's Adventure", and it was a well-known actress, Joan Temple, who presented the prizes on Speech Day. The Cercle Francaise put on a production of Gounod's opera, "Faust", shortly before Christmas.

**1937** As it was Coronation year,



S  
T  
A  
F  
F  
  
1  
9  
3  
6

the Overseas Visitors were all from the Commonwealth. The Shakespeare production was "The Merry Wives of Windsor", and the school was involved in local activities on 20 October, which was Charter Day for Edmonton.

**1938** In March, Overseas Visitors came from Canada, Denmark, Gold Coast and New South Wales, and next month staff and pupils produced the school play: "Journey's End". An inaugural essay competition was won by Stella Abbott. July saw participation in Middlesex Secondary Schools' Sports at the White City and North Middlesex Secondary Schools' Swimming Gala at Wood Green. After the Summer holidays, the threat of war loomed - gas masks were fitted, evacuation planned, trenches dug - but Chamberlain returned from Munich saying "peace in our time"!! In October, "A Comedy of Errors" was presented, and the success of French Afternoon in December was repeated for parents the following evening.

**1939** Overseas guests came from Finland, Kenya, Nigeria and China. Inspectors descended on the school from 9-12 May; but on 1 September, with war imminent, evacuation began and the school closed.



## ***SHAKESPEARE IN THE THIRTIES***

**1931 - THE TEMPEST**



**1932  
THE TAMING OF THE SHREW**



**1933  
THE MERCHANT OF VENICE**



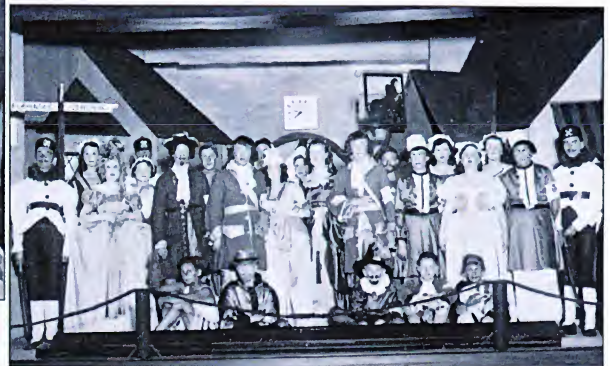
**1934 - TWELFTH NIGHT**



**1937  
THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR**



**1938  
A COMEDY OF ERRORS**





## EVACUATION

At the end of November, the Headmaster reported:

*"On September 1st the school evacuated with 183 County School pupils and 52 younger Brothers and sisters who attend the local elementary schools. At various times some 26 County School pupils who were on holiday on September 1st, came down privately and suitable billets were found for them. At this stage the Chief Billeting Officer refused to take such private evacuees and informed Mr Brown to this effect. This prevented a considerable number of others from joining the school party. It would be to the advantage of the school if those who now wish to come could be sent as members of an official party.*



*In addition there are 18 other pupils from other secondary schools in attendance here - 1 from Enfield County, 1 from Enfield Grammar, 9 from Edmonton Latymer, 4 from Tottenham Grammar, 1 from Tottenham High, and 2 from LCC schools.*

*Since, I have admitted 13 pupils from other Middlesex Secondary Schools. They evacuated with their own elementary school and are living in the outlying districts of Braintree. It is the Middlesex policy that such pupils should be accommodated in their nearest secondary school. I have not refused a single applicant in attendance at a secondary school or who qualified for admission this year.*

*From the commencement pupils were divided into seven squads each with a squad leader assisted by two or three members of the staff. Members of the same family were kept in the same squad. Except in certain cases where pupils have been re-billeted from one part of Braintree to another, the squads have been kept intact and visits have always been made by the same member of the staff. This part of the work has been well done. ....*

SCHOOL *School commenced on Monday, September 18th, with full attendance for Forms VI, V, IV, and III. Forms I and II attended alternate days. After a fortnight two rooms in Courtauld Road (three minutes from the school) were made available for us and instantly the school started on full time teaching."*

*Great efforts were made to keep the pupils fit and happy, including country walks, games, and a Saturday Afternoon Club room. Parents' visits were encouraged, though these could be unsettling.*

*Meanwhile, the "home school" re-opened with 190 pupils on 21 February at*



Latymer. Full time schooling was provided for the School Certificate pupils and just over half time for the others. Mr Richman had general charge and Miss Emery acted as Senior Mistress. The pupils were, in the main, taught by their own staff. Mr North visited the school weekly after Easter, and found work proceeding normally. In June, Miss Emery and her 'home' Form V sent good wishes to Form Va at Braintree for their forthcoming examinations. Miss Staples and Form Va replied in July with their own photocard.



In May 1940, the school returned to its former premises in the Great Cambridge Road, but in the autumn term, as a result of 'the blitz', further pupils were evacuated to Cardiff; soon that city too became subject to heavy bombing, and many parents reclaimed their offspring.

### At Braintree



BRAINTREE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL. ENTRANCE HALL.



BRAINTREE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL.



BRAINTREE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL.



ROCKING PLACE. OUR PRESENT HOME.



## *The Forties - Wartime and Post-War Austerity*

**1941** Work and play returned to the old routine, and the dedication of staff and pupils was rewarded with outstanding exam results: 45 GSC, including 19 with Matric, and 5 HSC including 2 with Inter BA. At Speech Day, Act 1 of Shaw's "St Joan" was a very dramatic presentation, and in November the School football team defeated Winchmore Hill reserves 5-1 away, with Ryman scoring 4 goals.



**1942** The International Afternoon tradition resumed, with speakers from occupied countries: Holland, Norway, Russia and Poland. This year's dramatic production was "The Importance of Being Earnest". For six weeks in the summer holidays, Mr Comber and 25 boys



worked at a Farm Camp on Lord Vesey's estate in the Cotswolds.

**1943** The juniors put on three short plays in March, and the inter-house English Afternoon was held in April. There was also 'Wings for Victory' week, when fund-raising schemes raised over £2000 (in school time!). Sports Day was held in June, with the field events completed in advance, and another play, "Dear Octopus", was shown in July. Farm camp for boys was at Stowell Park, and there were two fruit-picking camps in East Anglia



S  
T  
A  
F  
F  
  
1  
9  
4  
3



for girls. Then on 31 August, Mr North retired, and was succeeded by Mr Harold B Champion BSc. The new Head was a kind and dignified man of wide interests and firm principles; extremely patriotic, he prized loyalty and integrity above all else. When a much loved teacher was brought to him after taking a nip too many from her bottle in the stock cupboard, his warning was merely that if he thought her unfit, he would have to suspend her.

The Speech Day guest in October was Sir Fred Clarke of the Institute of Education, and there was a carol concert in December.



**1944** The playwright was present and most appreciative when the school presented a dramatic play in French about the resistance movement: "The Guest". In March there were more plays by the juniors, followed by English Afternoon and participation in Edmonton Arts and Crafts Exhibition. A Gym Display, Sports Day, Swimming Gala, and Farm Camp marked the Summer term, and the guest at Speech Day in October was Commander Campbell, of "Brains Trust" fame. Was it coincidence that a few days earlier, Head Girl Doreen Ellis had taken part in the broadcast "Junior Brains Trust"? There were several cases of charitable fund-raising throughout the year, and the prefects went carol singing at Christmas on behalf of the Red Cross.

**1945** English Afternoon was postponed for a month, due to the threat from V2 rockets, but it was hoped that this was the last time classes would troop to the boys' cloakrooms to sit out air raids in the area protected by blast walls. At the end of July, "Macbeth" was a magnificent school production, and there were 56 successful GSC candidates, 35 with Matric exemption. Two sixth formers earned Open Scholarships.

**1946** The Head held his first Fire Drill and recorded a time of 1½ minutes to clear the school - "except the 6th Form"! A boxing tournament was held on the evening of 2 April, which proved a great success, and near the end of the summer term, "Twelfth Night" was presented. A noteworthy guest for Speech Day was the Home Secretary, the Rt Hon J Chuter Ede, MP, and on 14 December there was a Memorial Service for former pupils lost in the 1939-45 war.

**1947** The year began with a French and German evening in the first week, at which a lavish production of "Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme" featured.





The first Junior Speech Day was held in February, and there would be another in November. Sports Day on 12 July had some notable events: the staff cycle race took an unusual form, and Ken Saggars broke the mile record, paced at the end by another record breaker, Johnny Staines.



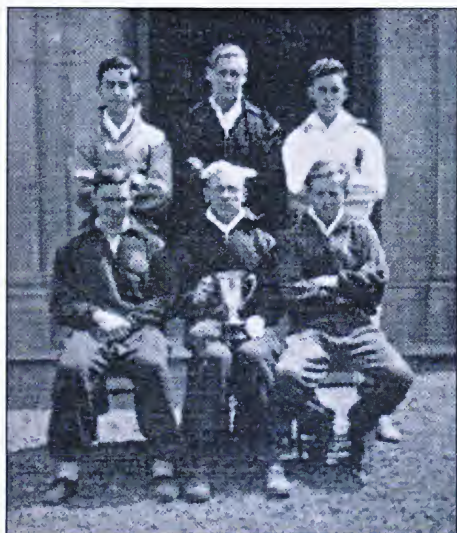
Our local Member of Parliament, Evan Durbin, presented the prizes at Senior Speech Day.

S  
T  
A  
F  
F  
  
1  
9  
4  
7





**1948** French Afternoon on 9 January included a version of Racine's "Athalie", with the story told in mime while a chorus sang the words. The school now



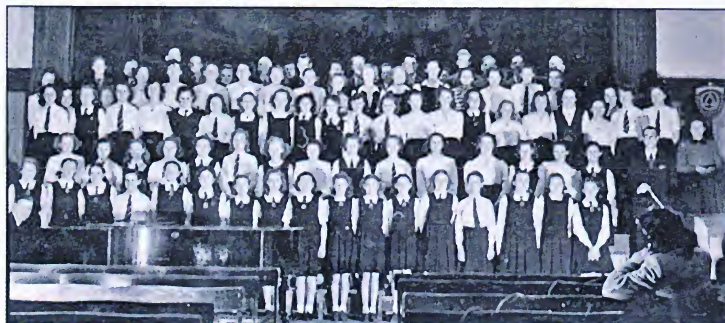
had a cross-country team, which excelled by winning the Southgate Harriers' Inter-Schools Cross Country Cup. The War Memorial was unveiled on 18 July. The largest number so far, 71, earned the GSC in the summer, having followed tradition by relaxing after the exams with a coca cola or lemonade at 'Lovings' opposite

the local shopping parade.



**1949** It was a very cold winter, and one day the first bell was deferred until

09.30 because the school temperature was only 48°. A second annual choir concert was held in May and the Inter-School Sports included many Edmonton athletes. On 21 July, a new event was the Ladies v Gentlemen Staff Cricket Match,



(with Misses Smith, Staples, Henderson, Horrex, Booth, Capewell, Emery, Fothergil, Hadler,



Marshall, Haswell, and Messrs Doubleday, Woodward, Akhurst, Bradley, Thomson, Long, Quartermaine, Galin, Elengorn, Buckle and Wilkinson.)

A large party of seniors spent a week in Paris in the summer, and some boys had a farm camp at West Bay with Mr Bruyneels, where they were delighted to visit their recent form teacher, Miss Booth.



## ***The Fifties***

**1950** In April, a geography visit to the Lake District was short of numbers, so Wordsworth's Dove Cottage was added to the itinerary, and a lucky 6th Form English group was included. The journey north was by overnight train, with a change at Leeds, where the pupils were astonished to find breakfast laid out for them on the platform! After exams, the highbrow 6th produced Ibsen's "The Master Builder". In the summer there were French exchange visits to Autun. A notorious incident occurred at lunch time on Speech Day, when a leg came through the ceiling of the hall, and the Headmaster's report that evening referred to the choir raising the roof!

**1951** There was a clamp down on criminals - 2 boys were suspended for theft; their loot: threepence and a fountain pen. Shakespeare returned to



the drama scene with "A Midsummer Night's Dream". There was another visit to Paris, and another July camp with "Bruiser", this time in Llanberis.

**1952** French Evening in February was a choir and mime performance of Corneille's "Le Cid", and in March there was the



Edmonton Five Choir Festival. A comic opera, "The Magic Boot", was enacted in April; its composer librettist was 'Will Kinlock' (known to most as Messrs Wilkinson and Locke). Meanwhile, a 5th year Party Ensemble was making a name for itself.





# S T A F F

1  
9  
5  
2



**1953** Will Kinlock was busy again, this time with "The Battered Bride".

**1954** In February, Mr Champion had a hospital appointment. Tragically believing that he had cancer, (a death sentence in those days), he took his own life on 3 March. Mr Quartermaine deputised, as it was not until 1 November that a new Headmaster, Mr Robert Hudson, took up office. He came from the Isle of Man, and led the Lord's Prayer **in Manx** on what he said was 'Manx Day'. He was known in the school as 'Pockets'; as one pupil said: "He was an incurable tinkerer and the pockets of his misshapen jacket were filled with a miscellany of hardware and tools. Whatever he came across in the school that needed fixing - out would come his tools and he would be down on his knees doing just that". Most traditions continued - there were geography visits to the Lake District, French exchanges and visits to Paris, annual choir concerts, sports days, swimming galas, speech days and English afternoons. New were a crackdown on smoking, in or out of school, an involvement with the Student Christian Movement., and outings to leading sports events. Plays produced included "She Stoops to Conquer" and later "Pygmalion" (1956), "The Importance of Being Earnest" (1957) and "The Passing of the Third Floor Back" (1958).





**1959** There was more trouble with the boilers: the exam classroom was so cold that Mr Crellin brought in his own oil heater for the candidates. "The Stalkers" Rock Band was performing in the school and at local venues. 14 records were broken at the School Sports, and a Staff v School cricket match was held - resulting in a tie.

### ***The Early Sixties***



**STAFF 1960**

**1960** On 5 January, Rowantree Secondary School opened nearby, with a full staff of Headmaster, 14 male and 16 female teachers, and an emphasis on technical and secretarial studies.

During the year, three parties from the County School went abroad: girls to winter sports in Switzerland, boys to the Olympic Games in Rome and a group exchange with France. Academic results were excellent, with 127 'O' levels, and 39 'A' levels. In December, the school play was "The Housemaster" and there was also a carol concert.

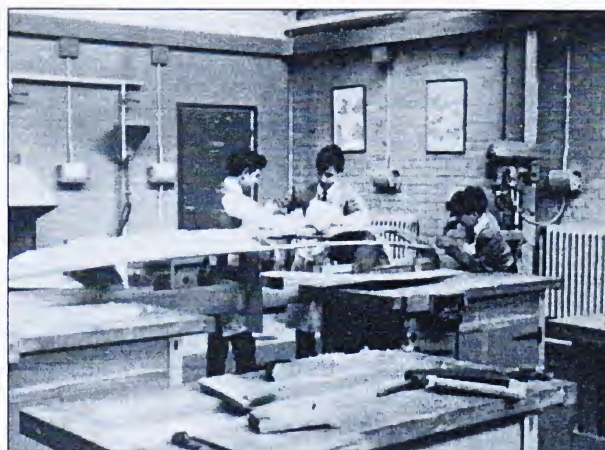
**1961** A three week visit to Paris became a frequent feature of the next few years, and the geographers returned to the Lake District. For Edmonton Drama Festival in March, "The Housemaster" was repeated, but with a few Old Scholars making up the cast deficiencies, and the play in December was "The Imaginary Invalid".

**1962** A new winter uniform for girls was introduced. Mr Botha, a teacher on a year's exchange from South Africa, had a few extra duties: attendance at a Royal Garden Party and later at the Commonwealth Conference. Eight Bronze Medallions for Life-Saving were awarded at Speech Day, a cross-country competition took place on 4 December, and the school play was an old favourite: "Twelfth Night".





**1963** In September, a four-stream entry introduced a Commercial course for post GCE students. On 19 October, there was the Ceremonial Opening of the new school buildings by Sir John Cockcroft, and a Christmas Bazaar raised £84-00 for an Indian village.



**1965** In August, a school party spent 16 days in Russia, and a ski party went to Switzerland in the Christmas holidays. 4 pupils won Cambridge Scholarships.



**1966** In March, staff and pupils joined a peaceful protest march about the way the comprehensive system was being introduced. The 1st XI football team won the Middlesex Grammar Schools' FA Cup in April.



**1967** Pupils enjoyed taking part in the Daily Sketch Great Paper Plane Chase early in the year, and the Football 1st XI proudly retained the Middlesex Grammar Schools FA Cup. There was considerable concern about the effect of combining schools to provide comprehensive education:

Miss Staples gathered all the girls and gave them a pep talk about the need to maintain the standards and ethos of the school, and to lead the members of the joining school by example. On 21 July, the school closed permanently as a Grammar School.



## ***Going Comprehensive, 1967***

On 7 September, combined with pupils of former Rowantree Secondary School, it re-opened as Edmonton Comprehensive School. 144 new admissions were made to the 4th Year in the Great Cambridge Road.

At the same time Edmonton County Lower School opened in the ex-Rowantree premises, with 567 pupils. There were 8 forms of 1st year new entries, (named 1R, 1L, 1H, 1U, 1D, 1S, 1O, 1N) and 11 forms of ex-Rowantree and County School students. Mr Ted McLeay became Head of Lower School and kept his own log book. At the Senior Speech Day in November, the programme was notably headed: "The Former Edmonton County Grammar School"

**1968** In January, a boy from Form 4Tech was suspended for drunkenness. The Upper Sixth enjoyed a ski-ing trip to Realp in Switzerland, and the Junior School watched



staff letting their hair down in "The Roman Orgy". The losers this year were the Physics and Maths CSE candidates, whose exams took place during the school holiday for borough elections.

**1969** There were trips to Paris, Jersey and the Isle of Wight. On 17 September a Service of Commemoration at All Saints' Church, Edmonton, marked the fiftieth anniversary of the school and there was an Anniversary Dinner in October. The guest speaker at Speech Day was former pupil Dr Roy Strong, then Director of the National Portrait Gallery. On the morning of 19 November, eleven staff were absent on strike! This year's play was "An Italian Straw Hat" and local old folks were treated to a concert in December.



Some former pupils from earlier days

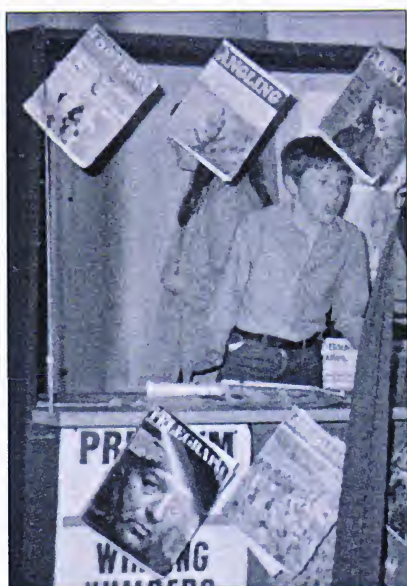


## The Seventies

**1970** Members of the Upper Sixth began the year with a ski trip to Austria. Several new events appeared in the calendar - in mid January, a Careers Convention; a Paperback Book Exhibition and the next month driving lessons for senior pupils ; and in April, the 2nd year undertook charity walks. Meanwhile, in March, a quiet,



unassuming lad played the newsvendor in the Lower School's production of "Emil and the Detectives" - a first stage appearance for screen tough guy Ray Winstone.



**1971** On 19 November, Miss Staples planted a cedar tree on the front lawn, to replace the fallen willow; it was presented by the Old Scholars.



**1972** Mr Woodward's etching design was

chosen for the new Chichester Crematorium.



**1973** Seven members of staff joined a union strike. All three junior years sent a party abroad, first form to Jersey, second to Normandy and Brittany, and third to Switzerland. On 20 July, the last day of term, the wooden hut by the railway line burned down. Senior Speech Day awards were made by Professor John Ramsay, FRS, a former pupil.

**1974** Overnight on 1 July, Mr Hudson died. Miss Staples, who was due to retire after 40 years' service to the school, agreed to step in until a replacement Headmaster was appointed.





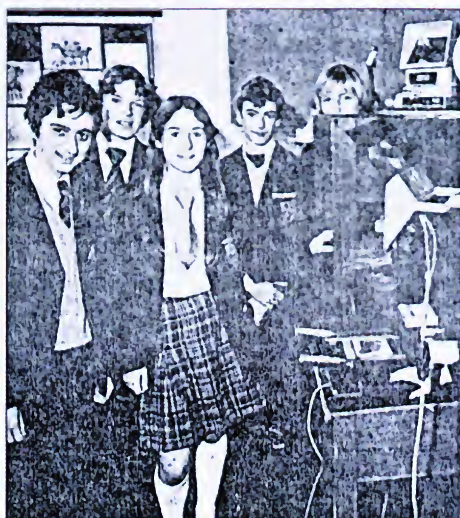
**1975** On 7 January, former pupil John Hulley joined as Headmaster, with the expressed aim of bringing the two halves of the school together. A 1st year student rejoiced that by the end of the school year, the dreaded caps and berets were no longer compulsory, and that uniform regulations as a whole were much relaxed (wedge soles and blakeys became popular in shoes). He added: "Although some 'trendy' teachers joined the school I was lucky enough to avoid them all through my school career".



In the next few years there were trips to Norway, Belgium, Germany and Bulgaria, as well as Skye, Brecon, Flatford Mill and many places of interest in the London area. Geography field trips continued, and the first groups attended courses at Theobalds Park College. Three long-serving teachers, Messrs Long, Lowe and Woodward, retired, and the school suffered several burglaries, as well as temporary closures due to strikes; power cuts failed to stop



rehearsals for songs for the Old Folks' Party. Music took on added importance with the choir taking part in a festival, and some brilliant soloists performed the musicals "Robert and Elizabeth" (1976), "My Fair Lady" (1977) and "Camelot" (1978). There were also entries for the biennial "Let's Make a Film Festival" for two years.





## *The Eighties*

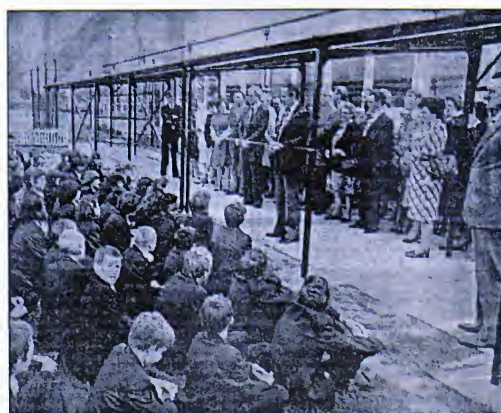
This was a very difficult era for Headmasters! After excluding two miscreants, the log book records: *"A very busy day - it would be much easier running schools without the children!"*, but in reality, it was the staff that caused the worst headaches. Absences through illness, bereavement, maternity leave, jury service, school trips and job interviews were compounded by courses and all too frequent union strikes over salaries, particularly in 1985. There was also a probationary teacher *"advised by God to give up teaching"* in mid year, who resigned two days later, having *"not been stopped by God from accepting a Scale 2 in an independent school!"* These staff shortages caused junior classes to be sent home early, brought in late, or excluded for whole afternoons.

**1980** Sports master Ian Wolstenholme won national recognition when Harlow Town, the team he managed, were cup giant-killers; and the school sent a football team to Belgium. In May, the covered way to the new classroom block was officially opened and in October three films were accepted for the 'Let's Make a Film Festival'.



F o r  
charity  
t h a t  
month,

children paid to wear plain clothes for a day, and sporting members of staff paid to wear school uniform!



**1981** Mr Ted McLeay retired as Head of Junior School.

**1982** Several day trips were made to France, and the school won an award for their film for the 'Look in on Industry' competition. There was concern that they would lose the 8-form entry and several teachers, in Enfield's plan for reorganisation, and the ESA recorded the resolution:

*"The Edmonton School Association recognise that falling rolls present the Local Authority with some problems.. We consider the strengths of the school include its popularity with parents, its close ties with local industry, its proven record of success with pupils of all abilities and its strong and well-established Sixth Form. We believe that parents will firmly oppose any plan to reorganise the School which fail to take account of these strengths or which reduce educational opportunities in the school".*



**1983** HM The Queen visited a local Cheshire Home and talked to students who helped there, including Naresh Patel and Helen Baker, Head Boy and Girl at Edmonton. The soccer 1st XI won the Middlesex Schools' Cup, and young film-makers won the 'Look in on Industry' award again. In June, the Junior School held a sponsored fancy dress walk for charity., while in October two staff and two sixth-formers braved a sponsored parachute jump.



Drama in this period included 'A Servant of Two Masters (1983),' 'Toad of Toad Hall' (1984)

and 'Smike' (1985).

Speech Day prize-givers for the next few years were frequently from local industries, but not in 1984 (Sir Roy Strong) nor 1988 (recent England Cricket Captain Mike Gatting).

The school prospectus for 1988 showed scenes of classwork in action, including computer studies and a music lesson with recorders.

**1989** Some senior pupils



were winners of a Fire Brigade Quiz. There were two school plays produced: 'Animal Farm' in March and 'The Crucible' in November.





## *The Nineties*

The early nineties saw more school trips than ever, visiting such places as theatres, museums, art galleries, farms, field centres and even Beckenham Sewage Farm. In addition to the well-established exchange visits with France and Germany, parties went to Spain, Greece and ski resorts in the half term holidays, and there were many day trips to France for pupils of all ages.

**1990** April saw the implementation of the National Curriculum, and in November there was a school play: 'Ma Baker's Tonic'.

**1991** On 30 January, Councillor Eustance opened the Lower School New Block; a week later there was heavy snowfall, and the Lower School had a technology project - building a snowman! A memorial



was mounted in the hall to pupils lost in the 1939-45 War. Staff and



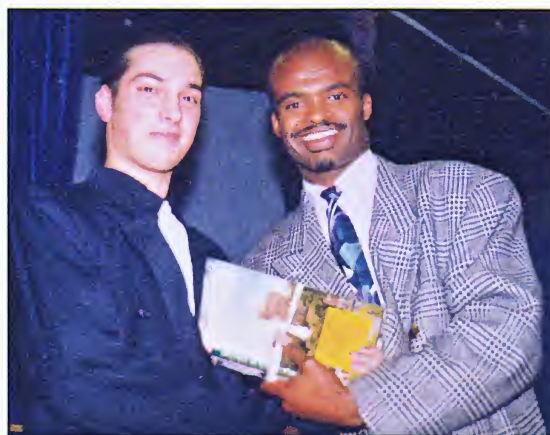
pupils planted a tree in the Lower School grounds on Open Day. 'Frankenstein'. was performed in October.

**1992** Two A-level students joined reading parties at Villiers Park, Cambridge, starting a trend frequently followed in the coming months.

**1993** The school play in February was 'Ratz'.

**1994** A sailing experience at Brightlingsea during the summer holidays led to a regular sailing course on Tuesdays and Thursdays in September, which resumed the following summer. Speech Day's chief guest was Olympic star and former pupil Kriss Akabusi. A Jazz Band was formed, which played to local primary schools in November and at the Mayor's Christmas Party.

**1995** In February, the school play was 'My Fair Lady'. The Jazz Band continued to be in demand and in June there was sailing three times a week. In December, after nearly 21 years at the helm, Mr Hulley retired.



Kriss Akabusi at Speech Day



**1996** Mr Martin Rainsford was appointed Headmaster, and set his theme for the future as 'Challenge and Achievement'. His efforts would be *'dedicated to bringing out the best in every student in school'*. That summer, he and 4 other staff joined a team which undertook and achieved the Three Peaks Challenge in under 24 hours.



Student Lee Piercey became National Schools' Karting Champion at 100cc and history teacher Jasmat Soma became Wimbledon Over 55 Tennis champion. Actress Glenda Jackson opened the

new English and Drama wing at the Lower School, posing with local education and political officers and Year 7 pupils.



**1997** The CASE programme - "Thinking Science" was introduced in the Lower School, and a school website was being created. 40 pupils went to the 2nd UK GNVQ Convention in Paris and enjoyed Disneyland. Senior classes began a tradition of holding Old Folks' Tea Parties.

**1998** The School featured on Greek television, as modern Greek was now taught - with help from the Cypriot Embassy. Planning permission was granted for a sports hall at the Lower Site and a new block at the Upper School. There were two spectacular performance nights of the "Dance Extravaganza", and an A-level student achieved 100% for his cosmology module.



**1999** Besides traditional school sports, there were now opportunities for rock-climbing (indoor as yet); sailing enthusiasts could take NSSA Proficiency Badges at the Lee Valley reservoir and experience sea sailing at Brightlingsea. Year 7 had more 'cognitive acceleration' - this time in mathematics.



## ***The Noughties***

This decade began with 120 teachers on the staff, the major subjects now being IT, Business Studies, Technology and Drama. There was extensive building at both sites, and 6th Form vocational groups travelled widely for courses and day visits. The religious mix among pupils was recognised by very successful Multicultural Evenings, and also the observance of the Holocaust Memorial Day (2003) and Muslim prayers each Friday lunchtime (from 2004).

**2000** A 'reading buddy' scheme was introduced for the lower classes, and Star Lab fostered Year 8's interest in science and astronomy; many senior students attended study courses and conferences. There was a history visit to Ypres and football and netball teams played games in Spain and Gibraltar, while the summer water sports holiday in France was very popular. The steel band performed at Enfield Millennium Street party.



**2001** The travel and tourism course went to Barcelona, media groups to Disneyland, Paris, and more history students visited Ypres. In June, the new block was officially opened, having been in use all year, and in September Linda Robinson became Head Teacher, and enthusiastically promoted the application for technology status.



**2002** The School survived February's OFSTED inspection. Year 9's football team had an outstanding season, reaching the English Schools' final at Villa Park. Sadly, autumn sailing sessions were cancelled due to an outbreak of blue-green algae at Lee Valley reservoir.

**2003** Technology Status was approved in February, which led to extra funding for IT equipment and a close link with three local primary schools. School hours were advanced to 08.40 - 15.35. Weekly sailing resumed at Fairlop, and Red Nose Day raised £1882-94 for charity, including an







epic sponsored cycle ride by four of the boys. London Grid for Learning offered pupils free email and web space.

**2004** Dire weather led to some school closures, but the show must go on and the production of "Bugsy Malone" was a fantastic success. In July some Year 8 pupils took Maths SATS a year early and did well, while the GCSE results were the best ever. Kris Akabusi gave a motivational talk here at his old school, and Christmas festivities included the usual Old Folks' Party and Year 9 Talent Show. During the summer, the major redecoration began on the 1st floor.

**2005** Red Nose Day activities raised £1461 for tsunami victims, and pupils agreed a roster for litter-collecting. There was an art trip to Florence in February. At summer half term, Year 9 students began the Year 10 syllabus, and the latter started their GCSE course. On 'National Shakespeare Day' in July the school performed "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at the Arts Depot in Barnet.



**2006** There was a geography trip to the United States. The redecoration of the ground floor took place in the summer, including making the hall more apt for dance and drama (i.e. the panelling and war memorial were removed). At the end of the autumn term Linda Robinson left.

**2007** Siobhan Leahy became the new Head teacher, and almost at once she had to contend with a teachers' strike over working conditions



**2009** In June, it was proposed to run the two sites in parallel, each with ages 7-18, and this was very unpopular with a few parents of younger children, who feared bullying by seniors, caused a stir on Facebook, and urged their children to skip lessons. A former pupil, Patrick Azimkar, was killed by IRA action in Northern Ireland.



## The Tens

This was another decade of great changes: not only were the age ranges first duplicated at both sites, but in 2014 reception classes joined Bury Site. Two years later, the School opened in September as an Academy. The 2013 GCSE exam timetable included entries for a remarkable ten languages, being Arabic, Dutch, English, French, Greek, Gujarati, Polish, Russian, Spanish and Turkish! What is more, the public exam results were the best in the school's history.

**2010** In September, the two sites were indeed arranged to run in parallel, each covering all years, and were designated the Cambridge and Bury Campuses. At Christmas, however, Siobhan Leahy retired.

**2011** Her replacement, in September, was Dr Susan Tranter, whose expressed aim was "Learning and achievement for all".

**2012** Bernard Hogan-Howe, Chief Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, and Andy Love, the local MP, both visited the citizenship group to discuss current issues, while photography, art and textiles students held an exhibition of their work. Black History Month was observed on a November evening, and school Beanie hats went on sale.



**2013** This year's winter production was "Little Shop of Horrors", with some scenery painted in an art project. There were trips to Venice and Paris, a Careers Fair at which 24 organisations were represented and, in July, a Sports Ball. Despite a teachers' strike in October, the Autumn term held all the usual community activities, and sky-diving pupils and staff raised over £4000 for Leukaemia Care. A successful artist gave advice to an art workshop, and Paralympian runner Tim Prendergast introduced psychology to sports leaders. Fatoumia Ayez was elected to Enfield Youth Parliament.





**2014** The vision of an 'all-through' school, with ages 4-19, became a reality as two reception classes were accommodated in the new block on Bury Campus; the upper floors were designated for maths and science. In the Sports Hall, a Fitness Suite was opened. Seniors took up a Sport Relief challenge to join a 5km run, and 9 staff members cycled from London to Brighton for charity. The new student email platform, complete with Office 365, was adopted, and some Year 10 students had a videoconference with their pen-pals in Brittany, each speaking in the other's language. Year 8 history groups went to Ypres and 104 6th formers to Amsterdam, while music students performed at Edmonton's Lamb Festival. Turkish pupils had a motivational meeting with their compatriot, Mr Ali Bakir, Mayor of Enfield. NUT day strikes in March and July again shut the school. A December OFSTED inspection earned approval of progress

**2015** After school clubs now included the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award, a Culinary Club, Mandarin Chinese and British Sign Language. A lot of money was raised for charities, in particular for research into sarcoidosis, which had recently claimed the life of a member of staff. Music



students were still enjoying ukulele lessons. Art and drama flourished, with junior pantomimes of "Cinderella" and "Aladdin", a "Summer Evening of Dance"



and a very successful "Expressive Arts Festival". National and Local Challenges were tackled for mathematics, design technology and many sports, with considerable success in athletics, football and basketball.

In September, the 6th Form Staff did an overnight half-marathon for cancer research, and their students enjoyed a trip to Paris, including Disneyland,

**2016** Spring term featured a Higher Education Fair, at which 24 Universities and the National Apprentice Service were represented, and four days of fund-raising for Sport Relief; the Primary section celebrated World Book Day. Dancing dominated the summer, with two Proms, a Sports Ball and a spectacular Dance Show.



Students with their purchases after a visit to the Disney Store



On 1 September 2016 the School opened as an Academy, giving the Staff and Governors more control over the curriculum. Music students were in demand locally, and performed at the opening ceremony of a new Edmonton school. A 6th Form Student Union was formed, to discuss charity work, student problems and world issues, and the traditional Christmas Old Folks' Party was replaced by the provision and delivery of food parcels to private and care homes.

**2017** From March, the Weekly Newsletter to parents was replaced by a half-termly Bulletin. While many student activities promoted health and well-being, the staff were improving their academic records by obtaining Masters' degrees.



A Student Voice Council was formed, consisting of elected form captains, the Head Girl, Head Boy, their Deputies from year 11, several leading 6th-formers and the three School representatives from the Enfield Youth Parliament.

**2018** Dance groups performed in Enfield Dance Festival at the Millfield Theatre, the Glee Club featured at the Hackney Empire, and the School Debating team won their 'top team' clash with a Haringey school over the relationship between mental health and crime. There was an autumn half-term trip to Istanbul.



## APPENDIX 1

Did you find your favourite teacher in the staff photos? This is who was shown:

- 1938: LC Comber, W Pretty, AT Leeming, AJ Quatermaine, SA Akhurst, R Mason, Askew, S Elengorn.  
Miss Hale, Dr Rogers, Miss DJ Staples, Miss Lock, Dr Galin, G Locke, Miss E Horrex, ? , Miss KM Fothergill, Miss MI Emery, TC Childs.  
Miss I Capewell, ER Topping, Miss E Gatehouse, J North, M Morris, Miss F Rudwick, C Richman.
- 1943: AT Leeming, Bartlett, G Locke, LC Comber, Dr Rogers, W Pretty, SA Akhurst, R Mason, Dr S Galin, Miss DJ Staples.  
Miss F Rudwick, Miss ME Hadler, Miss M Ashworth, Miss MI Emery, Miss I Capewell, J North, AJ Quartermaine, Miss KM Fothergill, Miss JJ Drummond, Miss ML Nix, Miss E Horrex.
- 1947: N Buckle, AT Leeming, J Long, ELK Bruyneels, J Bradley, N Wilkinson  
Miss DJ Staples, Mrs JM Boyes, Miss GK Cooke, Miss E Horrex, SA Akhurst, FEF Doubleday, Miss ACE Booth, Miss PM Smith, Miss RER Graves, S Elengorn.  
Miss ME Hadler, Miss MI Emery, Miss KM Fothergill, Miss I Capewell, HB Champion, AJ Quartermaine, Dr S Galin, G Locke, R Mason.
- 1952: Mr Bartlett, AT Leeming, R Cleverdon, W Hall, H Clark, SA Akhurst, S Elengorn, J Bradley, FEF Doubleday, RL Woodward.  
N Wilkinson, J Long, Miss K Young, Miss J Hill, Miss E Horrex, Miss JC Henderson, Miss P Thomas, Miss BM Davis, Dr S Galin, Mr F Lowe.  
Miss M Roberts, Miss MI Emery, AJ Quartermaine, HB Champion, Miss KM Fothergill, Miss DJ Staples, Miss J Haswell.
- 1960: Mlle.R Balme, Mrs E Jones, Mr GK Brooks, Miss J Garner (*later Mrs McKenna*), Mr PT Hammersley, Miss J Chapman, Miss MR Holt, Mr J Fox, Mr W Hampe.  
Herr Heinz Lauter, Frau E Sillins, Miss B Pagan, Mr DC Kevill, Miss P Healey (*later Mrs Norton*), Mr CG Burrige, Mrs M Barnes, Mrs A Morgan, Mr P Newell, Mr AS Cohen, Mr G Briggs, Miss E Horrex.  
Mr R Cleverdon, Mr RL Woodward, Dr AB Bentley, Mr NC Wilkinson, Mr SA Akhurst, Miss DJ Staples, Mr RL Hudson, Mr S Elengorn, Miss JC Henderson, Mr J Long, Mr FEF Doubleday, Miss JM Owers, Mr F Lowe.



## APPENDIX 2

The Girls' Central School prospectus of 1921 has some interesting clauses, and was re-issued with minor changes for the combined school in 1928:

*"The School is under the authority of the Middlesex County Council, and is conducted in accordance with the Regulations of the Board of Education for Secondary Schools. The Governors are the Local Higher Education Committee for Edmonton appointed by the Middlesex County Council and the Edmonton District Council."*

**"CURRICULUM** *The subjects of instruction include Scripture, English Language and Literature, Mathematics, French, History, Geography, Experimental Science - Physics and Chemistry, Art, Music, Physical Exercises - including Swimming, and Domestic Subjects, including Needlework. The scheme of work is designed to provide a progressive education, broad, sound and useful. In the Fifth Form pupils are brought to the standard of the University General School Examination, and this, subject to certain conditions, qualifies for Matriculation."* ...

**"ADMISSION** *- The most suitable age for entrance to the School is between eleven and twelve years... A pupil can be accepted only after success in an Entrance Examination, which will consist of written work, together with oral tests, in the ordinary elementary subjects. ... Before admission the Agreement must be stamped (sixpenny stamp), signed by the father or guardian, and forwarded to the School."*

**"FEES** *- The School Fees... are one and a half guineas per term ... they cover tuition, books, all ordinary stationery and games."*

**"ROUTINE** *- 1. The SCHOOL YEAR comprises three Terms, beginning in September and ending in July. The holidays are about three weeks each at Christmas and Easter, and about seven weeks in the summer, with a mid-term holiday (one or two days) in each Term. 2. THE SCHOOL HOURS are from 9 to 12.30 and from 2 to 4. Regular and punctual attendance is of first importance. In all cases of absence a written explanation is required on a pupil's return to school. 3. HOME-WORK - is essential to the pupil's progress, and it holds a prominent place in the School's scheme of work. It is regulated by a Time Table and closely co-ordinated with the work done in School; it must be done by every pupil. ... 4. At the end of the Autumn and Summer Terms a Report on the work and conduct of every pupil will be forwarded to the father or guardian."* ...

**"DINNER** *- For the benefit of pupils who cannot conveniently go home at mid-day, dinners are provided at a moderate charge. Arrangements are also made for pupils who wish to bring a cold lunch."* ...

**"SCHOOL DRESS** *- [Uniform as previously described, plus:] "Girls must be provided with gymnasium shoes, and overalls for science and needlework"*



## APPENDIX 3

These are the original words to the School Song, as written by Mr George ("Gus") Locke, to the tune of "O Canada":

### ALMA MATER

O Mother School, thou Alma Mater dear,  
Thy brow is crowned with bays we wreathe for thee;  
Thy smile serene, thy friendly mien  
Has lured us, lures us still;  
Thy word of cheer, thy rod severe  
Have strengthened heart and will.  
Thy faith divine, thy courage bold  
To high endeavour shall thy children hold.  
To high endeavour shall thy children hold.

May thoughts of thee inspire the coming years  
Thy counsel free chase far all secret fears;  
May friends we've made stand by us still  
To hold us on our way,  
May Fortune smile as we climb the Hill  
Toward the Closing Day.  
When comes the End, be still our Friend  
Then Alma Mater smile, and say, "Well Done,"  
Grant every son and daughter God's "Well Done."



Printed on behalf of  
Edmonton County School Old Scholars  
Association

by CAPRIN Ltd.  
Park Street, St Albans.